AMENDMENTS

Amendments to the specification:

Please replace the paragraph that starts at page line with the following paragraph.

First, serum (50 µL) known to contain GBV-B RNA by RT-PCR assay was extracted with Trizol, and the RNA was washed and dried. A synthetic oligonucleotide was then ligated to the 3' end of the viral RNA. The oligonucleotide, AATTCGGCCCTGCAGGCCACAACAGTC (SEQ ID NO:17), which was phosphorylated at the 5' end and chemically blocked at the 3' end, was ligated to the RNA essentially using the method described by Kolykhalov et al. (Behrens *et al.*, 1996). The RNA was initially dissolved in DMSO and the following additions were made: Tris-Cl, pH 7.5 (10 mM), $MgCl_2$ (10 mM), DTT (5 mM), hexamine cobalt chloride (1 mM), 10 pmol oligo and 8 U T4 ligase. The final concentration of DMSO was 30% in a final volume of 10 µL. The ligation reaction was incubated for 4 or 20 hours at 19° C. 1 µL of the ligation reaction was used directly to make cDNA, using a primer complementary to the ligated oligonucleotide and the Superscript 2 system, in a final volume of 15 µL. 1 µL of cDNA was amplified using the Advantage cDNA system (Clontech) and two additional oligonucleotide primers. These primers included one that was complementary to the ligated oligonucleotide (*i.e.*, "negative sense") and a positive-sense primer located near the 3' end of the reported GBV-B sequence. A product approximately 290 bases in length was obtained, and this was gel purified and directly sequenced. Sequencing was done in both directions using the oligonucleotide primers employed for the amplification; 259 bases that had not been previously reported were identified as fused to the sequence that had been previously described as the 3' terminus of the viral genome.